

ENGLISH FOR NEW BOSTONIANS

“English programs are essential, not just for recent immigrants to engage in economic and social opportunities, but also for our great city to benefit from everything new Bostonians have to offer,” -Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

Boston needs immigrants.

Immigrants make up 17 percent of the state’s workforce, and one quarter (26 percent) of Boston’s population.

- Immigrants boost the local economy with over \$3 billion annually in spending.
- Immigrants in Boston pay more than \$830 million in taxes.
- Immigrants work in all of Massachusetts’ major industries.

Immigrants need English.

Like anyone else, immigrants want to achieve their dreams. But many are not prepared to meet the demands of today’s knowledge economy.

- Over 3,500 people in Boston are currently waiting to enter ESOL classes
- 46,000 or 8% of Boston's adult population speak English less than well
- 26,000 households in Boston are linguistically isolated - no adults speak English well.
- 41,000 immigrants in Boston have not completed high school and are in need of adult basic education (ABE) classes.

With English skills, immigrants can support their children in school, engage in their communities and go on to become U.S. Citizens. They earn a higher income, pay a greater amount in state and federal taxes, and contribute more to our economy.

“Before I needed a translator. Now, I try myself. I help my children with their schoolwork. Now I do it very well. My oldest child is getting an award next month in the sixth grade because he’s done well in school.” -ESOL student

Businesses and communities benefit by increased access to English classes. When immigrants can communicate effectively in English, benefits include:

- Improved customer service
- Improved patient care
- Increased capacity to implement new production modes
- Increased family income leading to stronger families and stronger future generations

“The Massachusetts economy is dependent on a skilled and productive workforce with proficient English skills to meet customer service requirements, and to participate in operations that further increase productivity to help employers remain competitive in the marketplace. Today, large and small employers alike, in both the service and manufacturing sectors face an on-going challenge to improve the communications skills of their employees.”

- Richard C. Lord, President & CEO, Associated Industries of Massachusetts

English for New Bostonians (ENB) is a public-private-community solution initiated by the Mayor's Office of New Bostonians that is committed to expanding the city's long-term capacity to meet the demand for English classes.

ENB addresses the demand for ESOL by:

- Increasing access to ESOL classes
- Building ESOL system capacity
- Increasing the impact of Boston's ESOL system
- Promoting employer engagement
- Increasing state, federal and private funding

ENB is staffed by The Boston Adult Literacy Fund, The Mayor's Office of Jobs & Community Services, and The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition. ENB includes representation from the City of Boston and private funders.

Be a part of the ESOL solution.

Businesses: Provide financial support to ENB's ESOL programs and enable your employees to use them. Bring ESOL classes to your site. Lend your voice to ABE/ESOL advocacy work.

Foundations: Support ENB's ESOL programs, innovation and advocacy work.

Unions: Join ENB advocacy efforts. Set up an on-site program for your members.

Elected Officials: Ensure that ABE/ESOL resources meet the demand by making available sufficient levels of funding, professional-level training and support.

Individuals: Make a tax-deductible donation to ENB. Let your elected officials know we need more public dollars for ABE/ESOL.

English for New Bostonians programs:

*ABCD Southside HeadStart ESOL Program
Anthony Perkins Community Center
Asian American Civic Association
Association of Haitian Women
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Brazilian Workers' Center
Catholic Charities/El Centro de Cardinal
Catholic Charities/Haitian Multi Service Center
Dorchester Nazarene Compassionate Center
East Boston Ecumenical Community Council
East Boston Harborside Community Center
Educational Development Group
Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses and Cape Verdean Community UNIDO
International Institute of Boston
Irish Immigration Center
Jamaica Plain Community Center Adult Learning Program
Mujeres Unidas en Acción
Neighborhood of Affordable Housing
Saint Marks Community Education Program
Somali Development Center
Thomas Gardner Extended Services School
Vietnamese American Civic Association
Voice and Future Fund
Worker Education Program*

English for New Bostonians supporters (list developing):

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- Boston Adult Literacy Fund, (617) 482.3336, balf@.balf.net
- Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, (617) 350.5480, ext.203, cgreen@miracoalition.org